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Action

Control:

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1972

AUGUST 2, 1961
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Info

FROM: BERLIN

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 127, AUGUST 2, 7 PM

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 127, BONN 111, INFORMATION LONDON 66,
PARIS 71, MOSCOW 63, POLAD USAREUR 64.

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FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY BORDER-CROSSER SITUATION AS PIECED TOGETHER FROM SENAT AND PRIVATE SOURCES. THERE HAS BEEN NOTABLE INCREASE OF BORDER CROSSERS AMONG REFUGEES, FROM AVERAGE OF 5-8 PER CENT IN RECENT WEEKS TO ALMOST 15 PER CENT YESTERDAY. SENAT OFFICIAL BELIEVES THAT SITUATION WOULD HAVE TO BE OBSERVED FOR ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE IT CAN BE ESTABLISHED WHETHER HIGH PERCENTAGE DURING LAST 24 HOURS WAS BEGINNING OF TREND.

SENAT INVESTIGATING CASES OF PRESSURE REPORTEDLY BROUGHT AGAINST BORDER CROSSERS IN ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE EXTENT AND INTENSITY OF EAST GERMAN INTIMIDATION CAMPAIGN. WEST BERLIN PRESS, ESPECIALLY TABLOIDS, GIVING SENSATIONALIST TREATMENT TO "TERROR AND BRUTE FORCE" AGAINST BORDER CROSSERS (HEADLINE IN B.Z. AUG 2). STORIES INCLUDE REPORTS THAT BORDER CROSSERS ON WAY TO WORK BEING TAKEN OUT OF BUSES BY VOPO'S AND RELEASED ONLY IN RETURN FOR PROMISE TO ABANDON WORK IN WEST BERLIN. (ONE SUCH CASE OF SOVZONE MUNICIPAL ELECTRICAL WORKS - HAS BEEN VERIFIED BY SENAT.) ACCORDING TO OTHER PRESS REPORTS, SED HAS DEMANDED SPECIAL PASS BE ISSUED TO BORDER CROSSERS. SENAT OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE FIRMS QUESTIONED BY MISSION REPORT ONLY NORMAL ABSENTEEISM OF BORDER CROSSERS YESTERDAY AND TODAY;

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-2- 127, AUGUST 2, 7 PM FROM BERLIN

SITUATION APPARENTLY STABILIZED SINCE EARLY AUG 1 REPORTS
GIVEN TO MAYOR BRANOT AND REPORTED BY HIM TO US (BERLIN'S
118 TO DEPT, 102 TO BONN).

EAST PRESS REPORTED DISPATCH EBERT LETTER WITHOUT SPECIAL
COMMENT IN CONTEXT STORIES CALLING FOR STRONGER MEASURES
AGAINST BORDER CROSSERS.

WEST PRESS REPORTED SENAT SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED RECEIPT OF
LETTER BUT REFUSED ALL FURTHER COMMENT.

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